

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No.: 10/705,233
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC Ref: Q78419

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are all the claims pending in the application. By way of the Amendment, Applicants have added new claims 11 and 12 which respectively depend from claims 1 and 2.

In response to the RCE filed June 21, 2005, the Examiner has entered a new grounds of rejection. In particular, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 9-10 under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Carlsen (U.S. Patent No. 4,421,383). In addition, the Examiner has rejected claims 5-8 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carlsen in view of Borsuk (U.S. Patent No. 4,666,238). On the other hand, the Examiner has withdrawn the § 112 (first paragraph) rejection of the claims included in the Final Office Action dated January 21, 2005.

The Examiner contends that Carlsen teaches the features recited in independent claims 1 and 2 of the application, as well as dependent claims 3, 4 and 10. However, Applicants submit that Carlsen does not disclose a positioning member which is monolithically formed with the main body to place it in a proper position and, furthermore, does not disclose positioning the fiber such that a clearance is formed between the end of the hole and the leading end of the core wire of the optical fiber, as claims 1 and 2 require.

Carlsen discloses an optical fiber connector and has an issue date of December 28, 1983. In the rejection, the Examiner contends that the left side of connector body from surface 17 up to surface 24 corresponds to the claimed main body and that the portion of the ferrule between the surfaces 24 and 27 corresponds to the claimed positioning member.

As shown in Figure 1 of Carlsen, the end of the fiber 11 actually contacts the surface 27 so that the reference fails to disclose any type of positioning member which places the optical

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fiber “in such a position that clearance is formed between the deepest portion of the hole [of the main body] and a leading end of the core wire”, as claims 1 and 2 require. Indeed, the Carlsen reference specifically states that the fiber 1 is pushed inward until it contacts the focal plane 27 at the focal point 16 on the lens 18 axis, as discussed in column 9, lines 19-21.

Thus, although the Examiner asserts that the positioning member of Carlsen provides a clearance between the end of the fiber and the end of the hole in the main body, such is clearly not the case. To the contrary, Carlsen teaches that it is important that the fiber be fully inserted such that it contacts the end faced 27 so that it is aligned with the focal point 16 lying on that face 27.

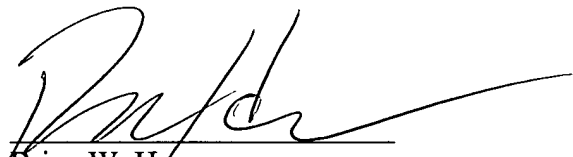
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 2 patentably distinguish over the cited art. Further, the dependent claims are patentable based on their dependency from claims 1 and 2. In addition, Applicants submit that new claims 11 and 12 patentably distinguish over Carlsen because Carlsen does not teach or suggest an arrangement in which the positioning member contacts at least the core wire, as these claims require.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all claims in the application are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the application be passed to issuance at the earliest possible convenience. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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